Message Text

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R 212131Z JAN 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BDIS, YO

SUBJ: PHILIPP BROTHERS, DIV. ENGELHARD MINERALS AND CHEMICALS CORP.

- 1. SUBJECT FIRM CONTRACTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 100,000 METRIC TONS OF PIG IRON FROM SMEDEREVO (JUGOMETAL) IN LATE 1972 FOR 1973 DELIVERY AT DOLS 54 PER TON WITH COMMITTED SHIPMENT ALMOST ENTIRELY IN ARREARS. BUYER CAN FURNISH CONTRACT COPY AND DOCUMENTATION SUBSTANTIATING THAT DELAY DUE ONLY TO RAPID PRODUCT VALUE RISE IN WORLD MARKETS LAST YEAR.
- 2. SELLERS DEMANDED DOLS 50 PER TON ADDITIONAL WHICH PHILIPP REFUSED, BUT DID COUNTEROFFER DOLS 15 PER TON INCREASE WHICH MORE THAN COMPENSATED FOR DOLLAR REVALUATION. SELLERS THEN SUGGESTED DOLS 25 INCREASE, BUT WITHDREW THAT NEGOTIATING BASE AND REVERTED TO FULL PREMIUM PAYMENT CONDITION. BUYERS HAD RESOLD ENTIRE QUANTITY AFTER CONTRACT SIGNED AND ARE THEREFORE FACED WITH SERIOUS LOSS IF THEIR COMPROMISE SOLUTION NOT ACCEPTED.
- 3. PRESIDENT OF PHILIPP APPROACHED FIRST SECRETARY OF GOY EMBASSY HERE ON 1/17/74 WHO SUGGESTED AN APPEAL TO SEVO ZEC OF CHAMBER OF ECONOMY. PHILIPP WILLING TO SEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTATIVES FROM MILAN AND LONDON TO PRESENT CASE, BUT

WANT CONFIRMATION OF EMBASSY'S READINESS TO ADVISE AND SUPPORT THEIR POSITION. RESPONSE REQUESTED ASAP THIS QUERY.

4. ENGEHARD VERY LARGE AND HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONGLOMERATE, AND REFUSAL OF JUGOMETAL TO MEET CONTRACT TERMS OR REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT THEREOF CAN ONLY HAVE UNFORTUNATE RE-PERCUSSIONS. KISSINGER

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